(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(54) Title: DETERMINING THE READING OF A KANJI WORD
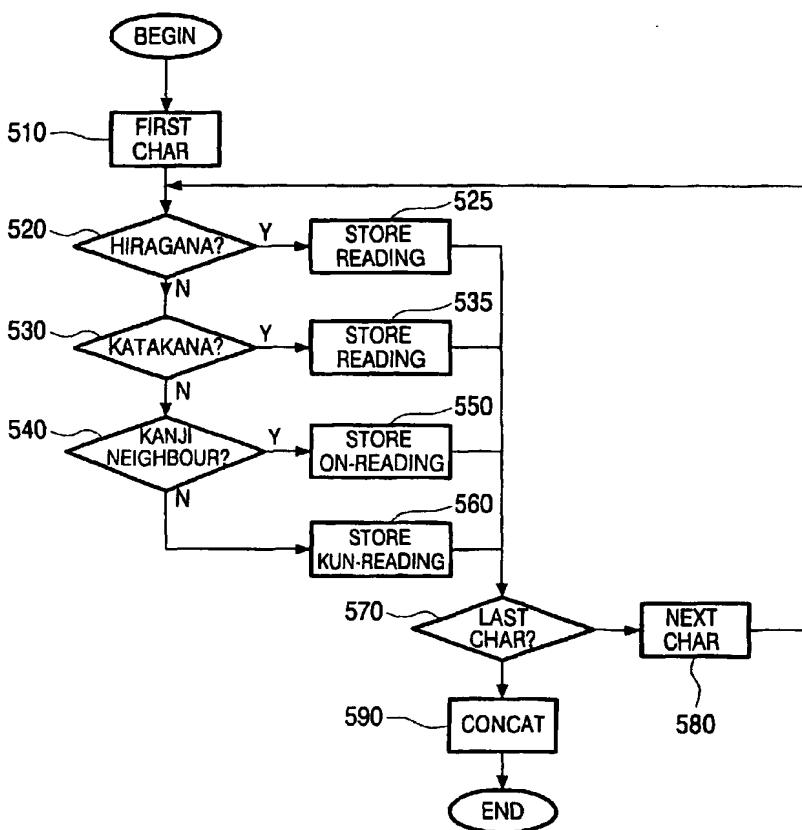
(57) Abstract: A method of automatically determining a reading of a Japanese word includes for each character determining whether the character is a kanji, hiragana 520, or katakana 530 character. For a hiragana or katakana character the only one reading associated with the character is chosen in step 525, 535. For a kanji character it is determined in step 540 whether or not the immediately preceding character and/or the immediately succeeding character is also a kanji character. If so, for the kanji character an on-reading associated with the kanji character is chosen in step 550. If not, a kun-reading associated with the kanji character is chosen in step 560.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.